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The French People. By ARTHUR HASSALL. [The Great Peoples Series.] (New York: D. Appleton and Co. 1901. Pp. xii, 400.)

THE history of the French, according to the main argument of this book, is the history of centralization in government. Though composed of race elements which were somewhat discordant, divided into separate states for many centuries, and into hostile creeds for generations more, the people of France have steadily worked toward a compact union under strong rulers. This goal was at first reached under a monarchy, and the nation attained its harmonious development under Louis XIV. But the incapacity of the royal financiers, and the unjust levies of taxes paved the way for the French Revolution. Napoleon brought order out of confusion, established equality of citizenship before the state treasury, and founded an administration, which has survived the political disturbances of a hundred years, and which seems destined to last. The growth of the trades classes and artisans, and the influence of the Church were also important factors in bringing about royal supremacy. Territorial feudalism had practically disappeared by the thirteenth century, but was soon replaced by the feudalism of appanage. Agincourt, with its slaughter of nobles, and Joan of Arc, with her appeal to patriotism, saved the King, and Louis XI. made his position secure. Freed from danger at home, with a united nation behind it, the royal court turned its attention towards foreign conquests, and with the exception of the generation of the religious wars and the regencies of the seventeenth century, European politics and plans of colonial aggrandizement occupied the thoughts of the French until the advent of Louis XVI. Napoleon inherited a part of this tradition and aimed at a world-empire. Since Waterloo colonization has seemed the more feasible, though the present republic is not at all unmindful of foreign alliances.

The longest chapter (pp. 309-362) is devoted to a history of the foreign relations of France. In spite of the decay of the aristocracy and the alliance of the king and people, "of all European nations, France has been the most willing to sacrifice constitutional progress for military glory" (p. 309). Foreign affairs would also appear to possess unusual interest for the author. At least, this is the only part of his narrative which deals with minutiae, witness the short monograph (pp. 334-354) on the affair of Nootka Sound in 1790.

As the purpose of the book is to show the development of French society in its broader lines, but little attention is paid to current happenings, and dates are few. The pressure of material is so great as to affect the author's style at times, especially in the earlier chapters. These read more like lectures, with repetitions of phrases and a confused presentation. The proof-reading has been hurried and perhaps not done by the writer himself. Notice attached (p. 9), 446 (p. 15), Sancourt (p. 50), the Sorbonne founded in 1202 (p. 99), Henry III. (p. 146) *sacred* (p. 196, sixth line), *prévaut* (p. 228), *provincial* government (p.

271, third line from end), and the dates for the various publications of the Romantic School (pp. 255-261). Certain statements are obscure. Thibaut (Theobald p. 70) of Champagne (p. 83) fought under Louis VIII., not under Simon de Montfort, as the order of events would indicate; Lafayette is *for* war with England (p. 344), and apparently *against* it (p. 356). Lamartine's *Jocelyn* (p. 260) is spoken of as prose, Hugo's *Han d'Islande* (l. c.) is made its contemporary, and George Sand (l. c.) is said to be a follower of Chateaubriand (not Châteaubriand—see index). The compliments paid to the Ecole des Chartes (pp. 372, 373) seem, from the allusion to natural science, intended for the École des Hautes Études. As the subject of the volume is the "French People," the sentence devoted to the poetry of Richard the Pilgrim (not preserved in its original form) and the crusade songs of William IX. (lost), on page 76, might be fittingly expanded into a paragraph on the relation of the national epic of France to the popular enthusiasm for the conquest of the Holy Land. But, these are slight blemishes in a work which is both strong and suggestive.

The bibliography is well chosen and the index full and correct.

F. M. WARREN.

The Two First Centuries of Florentine History: the Republic and Parties at the Time of Dante. By Professor PASQUALE VILLARI. Translated by LINDA VILLARI. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1901. Pp. xii, 576.)

PROFESSOR VILLARI'S history of Florence is a volume of nearly six hundred pages, made up for the most part of papers contributed to the *Nuova Antologia*, collected in 1895, and now given to the English-reading public. It is the result of a careful study of Florentine documents, critically applied to the statements of Villani and other early historians. The diction has the same characteristics of clearness and directness which have made the *Machiavelli* and the *Savonarola* so attractive; a Latin diction, refreshing after the kitchen-midden style of German composition. The translation is good, as might be expected from the experience of the translator, with here and there a reversion to the Italian idiom, as in the frequent use of "the which" for introducing relative clauses. The word "arisa" (p. 35 "the arisa of the communes") has an unfamiliar look. The book is plentifully supplied with illustrations, many of them reproductions of architectural remains of the Roman period.

Investigating the origins of Florence, as the community arose from the disastrous experiences of the Langobard invasion, Professor Villari seeks to steer a middle course between the chauvinistic conclusions of the German and the Latin schools. His judgment, however, and, perhaps, his sympathies reject the idea that the essential elements of reorganization are likely to have been contributed by the invaders. Why say, he suggests, that the Langobard invasion originated the new life following in Italy any more than that the French invasion of Napoleon, when the